

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DAVID D. RASLEY

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a Mr. David D. Rasley, Sr., who passed away on May 8, 2009. Mr. Rasley was a 50-year resident of Alaska. Working in the construction field, he was highly regarded in the Fairbanks labor community. He also gave tirelessly to community causes before and after his retirement. Dave was very proud of his Army service.

I have included his obituary below and ask that it be printed in the RECORD. Interior Alaskans mourn the loss of Dave Rasley and join in offering condolences to his wife of nearly 58 years, Luella, sons David, Ron and Brian and his grandchildren, Michael and Carolyn.

The information follows:

David Dale Rasley Sr. died May 8, 2009, after a long battle with cancer.

He was born on December 2, 1928, in Deer River, MN. Dave lived in Fairbanks for more than 50 years and came to Alaska for good in 1959 shortly after statehood.

Dave had come first to Alaska in 1948 with some family and friends to work on post-World War II projects in Anchorage, Kodiak and Fairbanks. He returned to Minnesota and was drafted into the Army in 1950.

Dave married his wife, Luella, June 7, 1951, in Port Townsend, WA, while he was in the Army. He loved Luella very much, and they were married for almost 58 years. He was proud of his military service and was stationed at Camp Desert Rock, NV, and participated in at least three atomic bomb tests during the early 1950s. His unit helped build some of the test facilities and participated in what are now known to be dangerous post blast tests.

Shortly after moving to Alaska in 1959, he worked on the Cold War DEW line installations at Barter Island and Clear Air Force Station. In 1961 he was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a rare neuromuscular disease and was told he might not survive long, or would be wheelchair-bound. He underwent experimental surgery at the University of Washington and with medication was able to function normally.

He began classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business in 1966. He worked in the construction industry for two years, then took a job with the Operating Engineers Union Local 302 as a field agent. He eventually became the head agent for the northern region of the state and was involved in the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and related work contract agreements for IUOE Local 302 until his retirement in 1989.

Dave was also proud of his 32 years of work as a board member of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and a past president of the board. He was involved in FMH projects such as the Denali Center, Imaging Center, Cancer Treatment Center and several general hospital expansions.

Dave and Luella were big sports fans supporting UAF hockey, men and women's basketball, volleyball, and other UAF activities. They were fixtures and season ticket holders for Gold Kings, Ice Dogs, UAF hockey teams and Fairbanks Goldpanners baseball team. Dave was a Goldpanner board member for many years and was not afraid to get involved when a volunteer was needed.

David is survived by his wife, Luella; sons, David Jr. (Beverly), Ron (Stephanie), Brian;

and by his grandchildren, Michael and Carolyn. David was a true Alaskan and will be missed.●

REMEMBERING L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life of Bill Seidman who passed away last week.

Bill was a man whose love for his country was matched only by his love for his family. Bill's life is heavily marked with numerous accomplishments in both his personal and professional lives that had a profound impact on many individuals and families who knew him and on those who never knew him.

To many of my Senate colleagues, Bill will be most remembered as the man who rescued our economy during the Savings and Loan Crisis in the late 1980's. As the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, and head of the Resolution Trust Corporation, RTC, he faced down a national economic crisis, the likes of which had not been seen since the Great Depression, and fundamentally changed the way the government dealt with failing banks.

In that time of fear and deep economic uncertainty, Bill stood out as the leader who stood on principle, talked straight, and told it like it was. It did not always make him popular and angered those who wanted him to "toe the line." However, it earned him the trust, respect, and credibility of policymakers, government officials, financial industry officials, and millions of citizens all across America.

But there was more to Bill than his public service achievements. His accomplishments were so numerous—and his humility so great—that many of them went unnoticed. He served his country during World War II and received the Bronze Star for his service as a communications officer on a destroyer while serving in the invasion of the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He spoke very little about his service during the war, like many of his great generation.

Bill earned degrees from some of the finest institutions in the Nation—his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth, a law degree from Harvard, and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

Bill was born in Grand Rapids, MI, where he maintained strong roots throughout his life. He began his career there at his family's accounting firm, Seidman and Seidman, and became a respected member of the local business community. But his greatest contribution to Grand Rapids was his role as a principal founder of Grand Valley State University in 1960. He was named the first honorary life member of Grand Valley's board, and the university's Seidman College of Business is named after his father.

In 1962, Bill ran unsuccessfully to be Michigan's State auditor general—his only attempt at elected office. He went

on to become an economic adviser to Michigan Governor George Romney, and later joined President Gerald Ford's Administration as the Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs.

In the early 1980s, he returned to academia as dean of Arizona State University's College of Business.

These are just a few of the many things Americans may not know about Bill Seidman—and he accomplished all of this before becoming Chairman of the FDIC, establishing the RTC, and brilliantly guiding America out of the economic wilderness—the role which brought him fame.

But with all he had accomplished, Bill never stopped to rest. He went on to author two books, "Productivity—The American Advantage," with Steven Shancke, and "Full Faith and Credit," a memoir of his time at the FDIC and his role in establishing and running the RTC. President Gerald Ford hailed "Full Faith and Credit" as "a fascinating story by a straight talker. The author dramatically tells how the Federal agencies sought to confront the challenge of the banking and S&L crisis."

In recent years, already well into his eighties, Bill stayed as active as ever, working as CNBC's chief commentator, regularly contributing opinion pieces to major newspapers, serving on numerous boards, and advising top officials—and me—on the current economic crisis.

In his most recent piece, published by the Wall Street Journal on May 8, he addressed the staffing and management challenges now confronting the FDIC. In it, he drew parallels between the hurdles that current Chairman Sheila Bair faces and the obstacles he faced in getting the FDIC and the new RTC properly "staffed up" to deal with the S&L crisis nearly two decades ago.

Bill wrote "The Resolution Trust Corporation had to handle the assets from failed institutions when I ran it in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis of 1985-1992. The RTC experience provides a useful guide for what the FDIC has to do now." Amen.

With the country again facing the same fear and uncertainty that Bill saw during his tenure at the FDIC, he provided what few others could: a brilliant and straightforward voice with years of experience, wisdom, and unquestionable integrity. The loss of his voice simply cannot be replaced.

But perhaps what was most remarkable about Bill is that for all of his brilliance, myriad accomplishments and worldwide recognition, there was a deep humility and kindness about Bill that was evident the moment you met him. Although he had the ears of presidents and the respect of the elite, he famously rode his bike to work. When asked about his accomplishments at the FDIC in a 1991 interview, he dismissed them as "primarily luck." But everyone knew better.

The passing of Bill Seidman is a loss for all of America. He dedicated his life

to his country and his family, and we are eternally grateful. I will especially miss Bill as he and I met in my office just 2 months ago to talk about the RTC and how we could apply those lessons to our current financial and economic crisis. I appreciated his wisdom, guidance, generosity, and the kindness and respect he paid to me.

It is my deepest hope that we can all learn from Bill, in not just his expertise on addressing the current financial crisis, but also in the way he treated others with kindness, humility, honesty, and passion.

Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife Sally, his six children, his many grandchildren and great grandchildren, and to all of his family. I will truly miss him.

It has been my honor today to offer this commemoration on the incredible life of Bill Seidman, and to salute this great American.●

REMEMBERING BRIAN O'NEILL

● Mrs. BOXER.: Mr. President, it is with a very heavy heart that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of an extraordinary National Park Service, NPS, leader, Brian O'Neill. Brian was a legendary conservationist and community builder whose legacy will serve as a source of inspiration for decades to come. Brian passed away on May 13, 2009. He was 67 years old.

Brian was born in Washington, DC, in 1942, where he lived for the first 27 years of his life. During his early years, Brian's family often took camping and road trips to many of our National Parks. It was on these trips that Brian first began to bond with the Great West that would eventually become his home. The deep love and respect for nature that Brian fostered in his youth continued to motivate his professional life and nurture his personal life for the remainder of his years.

Brian never kept his love of the outdoors to himself. From the beginning, he recognized the importance of sharing his enthusiasm for all things wild with his family, friends, and especially with young people. As a freshman at the University of Maryland, Brian and his twin brother Alan worked with their mother Mimi to establish a nonprofit organization that provided urban children with opportunities to visit national parks.

Brian began his career in Government service in 1965, when he was hired by what was then the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, BOR. As Deputy Director of BOR's Office of Urban Park Studies, Brian was a crucial part of the team that persuaded President Nixon to support legislation establishing two major urban parks: Golden Gate in San Francisco and Gateway in New York City. Brian was also instrumental in the inclusion of 2,000 miles of rivers on California's north coast in the national scenic rivers system during the final days of President Carter's administration.

For the past 25 years, Brian O'Neill served as the superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, GGNRA. Comprised of over 76,000 acres in Marin, San Mateo, and San Francisco counties, GGNRA is one of the largest urban parks in the country. GGNRA hosts over 16 million visitors annually and is home to 1,250 historic buildings, or 7 percent of all designated historic structures in the country. With ever-growing expertise, Brian led GGNRA's 347 NPS employees and 8,000 volunteers.

Brian had a special skill for connecting people with parks. He understood that in order to garner lasting support for parks, community members must be personally invested and involved every step of the way. Brian's can-do attitude enabled him to create fruitful partnerships with business leaders, philanthropists, and community leaders. He consistently proved skeptics wrong, as he raised more and more money to create additional parklands. NPS recognized Brian's natural aptitude for building partnerships—when NPS created a new assistant director position focused on creating relationships with outside entities, Brian was asked to serve in this role for the first year of its existence.

I had the great pleasure of knowing Brian for many years, and will always remember his bright smile and cheerful optimism. Brian's warmth drew people to him—he was always surrounded by a rich circle of friends and colleagues of all ages. Though he will be deeply missed, Brian has left us with the priceless and timeless gifts of the parks he helped to build. Thanks in great part to Brian, GGNRA provides its visitors with endless opportunities for exploration, education, and getting in touch with life's deepest purpose and most rewarding opportunities.

Brian has no doubt left an indelible mark on our hearts, minds, and the bay area's natural treasures. He was an inspiring and wonderful man. For those of us who were fortunate to know him, we take comfort in knowing that hundreds of thousands of park visitors will continue to benefit from Brian's vision and determination for generations to come.

Brian is survived by his mother Mimi, twin brother Alan, wife Marti, daughter Kim, son Brent, daughter-in-law Anne, and three grandchildren—Justin, Kieran and Sean.●

JESUSITA WILDFIRE FIREFIGHTERS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the brave men and women firefighters who worked tirelessly to protect the residents of Santa Barbara County from the recent Jesusita wildfire.

The Jesusita wildfire has burned nearly 10,000 acres, destroyed and damaged dozens of homes, and at one point forced the evacuation of more than 30,000 local residents.

Firefighters are often called upon to protect our communities while putting themselves in grave danger. This is certainly the case when reflecting on the efforts of Firefighter Robert Lopez, Captain Ron Topolinski, and Captain Brian Bulger from the Ventura County Fire Department. Firefighter Lopez and Captain Topolinski were assigned to structure protection when their position was overrun by a fast-moving wall of fire. Firefighter Lopez and Captain Topolinski utilized their combined 40-years of firefighting experience to survive the initial fire blast and call for help. Captain Brian Bulger responded to the emergency call and risked his own life to ensure the safety of his fellow firefighters. Although all three firefighters suffered injuries due to fire and toxic smoke exposure, all three survived and are now on their way toward recovery. An additional 27 firefighters were injured during this event.

I want to give special thanks to the more than 4,000 Federal, State, local, fire protection district, and volunteer firefighters who have put their lives on the line to fight this fire. Their courage and swift action during this recent wildfire has been truly heroic. They have risked their health and well-being for the benefit of our communities, and we are grateful.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in commending all men and women firefighters who risk their lives to protect our own.●

TRIBUTE TO JANE HAGEDORN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the career and contributions of Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, Inc., chief executive officer, Jane Hagedorn, for her 36 years of service to promoting clean air and preventing lung and air pollution-related diseases.

Jane Hagedorn began her affiliation with The American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails—later becoming Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails—as a volunteer in 1973. During her 3 years as a volunteer, she served as president of the board and then became executive director in 1976.

Under Jane Hagedorn's leadership, Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, Inc. led the fight to substantially reduce smoking and developed "Thumbs Up! Thumbs Down!" a nationally recognized tobacco research program developed to reduce the negative influence of tobacco use in film. Ms. Hagedorn also led Breathe California's collaboration with the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce to create the Cleaner Air Partnership, which brings elected officials, business leaders and nonprofit organizations together to collaborate on clean air initiatives for the Capital Region. She was also a leader in bringing light rail transit service to Sacramento to provide an environmentally friendly